

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR MX SG

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR WARMLY RECEIVED IN MEXICO

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR OF SENEGAL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL IN MEXICO CITY MAY 17 BY PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA, HIS CABINET, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND LARGE CROWDS. THAT SAME DAY, THE TWO PRESIDENTS HELD THEIR FIRST DISCUSSIONS. ON MAY 19, AT A DINNER GIVEN BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FOR PRESIDENT SENGHOR, BOTH LEADERS GAVE SPEECHES REVEALING SOMEWHAT DIFFERING ATTITUDES TOWARD THIRD WORLD AND CULTURAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON ARRIVAL AT MEXICO CITY'S AIRPORT MAY 17, PRESIDENT SENGHOR EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT BEING IN MEXICO, THE LAND WHICH PRODUCED SUCH IMPORTANT LITERARY FIGURES AS OCTAVIO PAZ AND CARLOS FUENTES. HE NOTED THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD SHOULD JOIN HANDS AND DRAW TOGETHER AND THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD PROPOSED THAT THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE THEY SHARE A COMMON LATIN HERITAGE. HE ALSO PRAISED PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE, THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AND MEXICO'S GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SENGHOR ADDED THAT AFRICA

WOULD SOON BE COMPLETELY FREE THANKS IN PART TO LATIN AMERICA'S SUPPORT, THAT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST "APARTHEID" CONTINUES AND IS PROGRESSING, AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS SHOULD BE THE COLLABORATORS BUT NOT THE SERVANTS OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.

2. THE TWO PRESIDENTS MET TOGETHER WITH RANKING OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS MAY 71 TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING ENERGY MATTERS, THE NEW LAW OF THE SEA, THE PROBLEMS OF POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD, SUPPLIES, THE LEGAL AND SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN, AND BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE TWO LEADERS STRESSED THAT THE "DECOLONIZATION" OF AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICA IS IRREVERSIBLE AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL NOT ONLY COMPLETE POLITICAL FREEDOM IS ACHIEVED BUT ALSO ECONOMIC FREEDOM.

3. SUNDAY, MAY 18 WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS (LAYING A WREATH AT THE INDEPENDENCE MONUMENT, ATTENDING THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE TO MEXICAN AUTHOR, ALFONOS REYES, ETC.

4. THE MAIN EVENT MAY 19 WAS A STATE DINNER BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HONORING PRESIDENT SENGHOR. BOTH PRESIDENTS GAVE LONG SPEECHES AT THIS FUNCTION. BEGINNING HIS SPEECH WITH A MODERATE STANCE, ECHEVERRIA, DEPARTED FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT, AND ADOPTED AN ANTI-US, ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-INDUSTRIALIZED-NATION STANCE WHICH WAS SHRILL AND DEMAGOGIC. ECHEVERRIA URGED A RETURN TO CULTURAL PURITY AND WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF "CULTURAL IMPERIALISM" WHICH THREATENS THE THIRD WORLD. IN ADDITION, HE CALLED FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN ASIA. (AMB JOVA, WHO LAST WEEK LEFT PRIOR TO THE LUNCHEON OF THE MEXICAN ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AFTER A MORNING SESSION OF GENERALLY ANTI-US SPEECHES, ALMOST CONSIDERED WALKING OUT. IN CONTRAST TO ECHEVERRIA, SENGHOR, WHO SPOKE IN FLAWLESS FRENCH, ADOPTED A VERY STATESMAN-LIKE TONE IN HIS SPEECH. HE STRESSED THAT SENEGAL HAS OPTED FOR SOCIALISM SUITABLE FOR BLACK AFRICA. SENEGAL EXAMINED MARXISM AND REFECTED IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS VALID ONLY FOR WESTERN EUROPE IN THE 19TH CENTURY. (THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SPEECH WANED PERCEPTIBLY AT THIS POINT.) SENEGAL, WHICH BELONGS TO THE 20TH CENTURY AND AFRICA DESIRES DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM. SENGHOR ADDED THAT HIS COUNTRY WANTS TO BECOME DEMOCRATIC WITHOUT FORSAKING THEIR ROOTS IN THE CIVILIZATION OF BLACK AFRICA AND BLACKNESS. SENEGAL WANTS TO BE OPEN TO FRUITFUL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEXICO, FROM OTHER CON-

TINENTS, AND ABOVE ALL FROM EUROPE AND AMERICA WHICH HE FELT COULD ADD MUCH TO SENEGAL'S ADVANCEMENT WITH THEIR TECHNOLOGY. (THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDED SENGHOR'S CALL FOR MIXING THE BEST IN CULTURES WITH MUCH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAT IT DID ECHEVERRI'S CALL TO OPPOSE CULTURAL AND OTHER FORMS OF IMPERIALISM.)

5. ON MAY 20, AT A DINNER GIVEN BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, THE LATTER'S SPEECH WAS MUCH MORE RESTRAINED IN TONE BUT STILL REplete WITH ANTI-IMPERIALIST REFERENCES (E.G., "DIABOLICAL GREAT POWERS WHO SPEND MORE ON NAVIES THAN ON CULTURE").

6. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S VISIT END ON MAY 21.
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